

Senate Resolution 1367

By: Senators Ramsey, Sr. of the 43rd, Unterman of the 45th, Brown of the 26th, Jackson of the 2nd, Davis of the 22nd and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Senate Vulnerable Adult Study Committee; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, the Georgia General Assembly has recognized that many citizens of this state,
3 because of their age or because of serious and persistent mental illness, degenerative brain
4 disorders, developmental or physical disabilities, or other similar incapacities, are in need of
5 emergency protective placement should they become the victim of abuse, neglect, or
6 exploitation; and

7 WHEREAS, the lack of emergency protective placement for victims of abuse who are elderly
8 or adults with disabilities is a nation-wide issue and was identified as a problem in Georgia
9 as early as 1993 by a Senate study group, the Senate Elder Abuse Task Force; and

10 WHEREAS, the Senate Elder Abuse Task Force discovered that there is an intense need in
11 Georgia to establish a comprehensive emergency alternative placement network for abused
12 elderly citizens; and

13 WHEREAS, the task force also found that in Georgia there are no specialized shelters that
14 provide services for victims of elderly or disabled adult abuse who need safe shelter; and

15 WHEREAS, the task force recommended that a resolution be introduced urging private
16 organizations, such as civic clubs, to provide funding for emergency intervention and
17 placement of the elderly; and

18 WHEREAS, due to the growth of the population of those over the age of 65 and disabled
19 adults in the past several decades, the increased need for emergency placement is reaching
20 epic proportions; and

21 WHEREAS, the absence of emergency placement for victims of elderly and disabled adult
22 abuse subjects victims to the ongoing risks associated with abuse, neglect, and exploitation;
23 and

24 WHEREAS, it may be necessary to designate emergency beds in certain nursing facilities,
25 to provide certain funding, and to develop policies to streamline admission procedures for
26 temporary emergency placement of victims of elderly and disabled adult abuse in long-term
27 care facilities with available beds; and

28 WHEREAS, there is a need to develop emergency protective placement that allows the
29 individual the same rights as other citizens and at the same time protect the individual from
30 financial exploitation, abuse, neglect, and self-neglect; and

31 WHEREAS, statistical data and information regarding the exact nature and extent of this
32 problem needs to be presented to the General Assembly and studied so that policies, plans,
33 and funding may be explored and developed.

34 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that there is created the Senate
35 Vulnerable Adult Study Committee to be composed of six members to be appointed by the
36 President of the Senate. The President of the Senate shall designate one of the Senate
37 members of the committee to be a chairperson of the committee. The chairperson shall call
38 all meetings of the committee.

39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of the issues
40 described above and recommend any actions or legislation which the committee deems
41 necessary or appropriate, including but not limited to suggesting solutions for the creation
42 and development of a plan for emergency placement for victims of elderly or disabled adult
43 abuse. The committee may conduct such meetings and hearings at such places and at such
44 times as it may deem necessary or convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively
45 its powers, perform its duties, and accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution.
46 The committee shall make a report of its findings and recommendations, with suggestions
47 for proposed legislation, if any, on or before December 31, 2010. The committee shall stand
48 abolished on December 31, 2010.